

**FY 2001 Approved Budget  
in Brief**



(Adopted by City Council on April 27, 2000)

**ALEXANDRIA CITY COUNCIL**

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**Philip Sunderland**

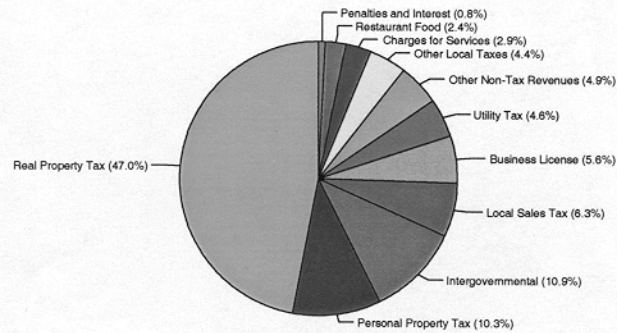
Information about the budget is available by calling the Office of Management and Budget (703/838-4780) from 8:00 A.M. to 5:00 P.M. Monday-Friday.

Reference copies of the budget are available at all Alexandria City Public Libraries.

Copies of the budget are available from the City at no cost. However, inventories are limited. Please call in advance to confirm availability.

Office of Management and Budget  
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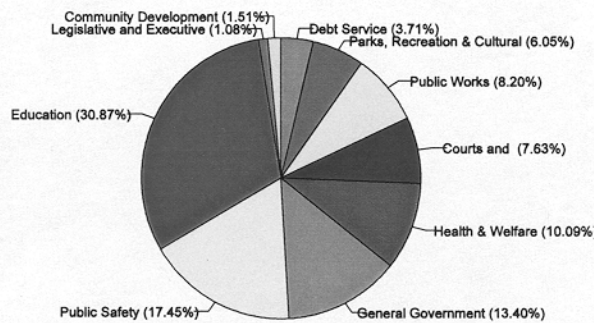
# **FY 2001 COMBINED GENERAL FUND REVENUES WHERE IT COMES FROM...**



FY 2001 General Fund Revenues  
Other Sources and Financing Sources  
Total General Fund revenues and other sources

\$319,321,612  
725,300  
\$320,046,912

# **FY 2001 COMBINED GENERAL FUND EXPENDITURES WHERE IT GOES...**



FY 2001 General Fund Expenditures

\$320,046,912

## TAX FACTS & ASSESSED VALUES

Type	Unit	FY 00 Actual Rate	FY 01 Approved Rate
Real Estate	\$100/AV	\$1.11	\$1.11
Personal Property for tangible personal property		\$4.75	\$4.75
Refuse Collection/Disposal	Hhld	\$185	\$185

Average Residential Home Assessed Value	\$191,341
Average Residential Tax Bill CY 99	\$2,031
Average Residential Tax Bill CY 00	\$2,124

### Median Assessed Value of Single-family Homes and Condominiums

<u>Assessed Value</u>	<u>Units</u>	<u>Total Value</u>	<u>Median Value</u>
Less than \$100,000	9,970	\$700,747,300	\$69,700
\$100,000 - \$149,999	6,677	\$818,104,500	\$121,700
\$150,000 - \$199,999	5,233	\$926,431,900	\$177,700
\$200,000 - \$249,999	4,160	\$924,937,300	\$222,700
More than \$250,000	8,530	\$3,352,364,800	\$336,300

In FY 2001, the value of each one-cent on the real property tax rate is approximately \$1.34 million.

## **FY 2001 Approved Summary**

- The Approved General Fund Budget of \$320 million, an increase of 9.3% since last year, maintains current services and includes:
  - Full funding of the School Board's Adopted FY 2001 Operating budget, plus an additional \$2.5 million to fund compensation increases for Schools employees comparable to those approved for City employees. The Approved General Fund appropriation to the Alexandria City Public Schools is \$98.8 million, an increase of 6.9 percent since last year.
  - Funding for capital projects, including pay-as-you-go funding for capital projects and debt service costs, of \$21.7 million, an increase of \$5.3 million, or 32 percent, as compared to last year.
  - Funding for City programs and services totaling \$199.5 million, an increase of 8.5 percent as compared to last year. This recommended funding level includes a significant increase in our funding for youth programs, recreation and leisure activities, and services for senior citizens.
- The total value of all real property in the City, at \$13.3 billion, increased 9.09% compared to 1999. New residential construction added \$212.5 million in value; new commercial construction added \$294.4 million in value.
- Appreciation of both existing residential and commercial properties added a total of \$608 million in value.
- The average assessed value of an existing residential home in the City appreciated 4.59 percent, from \$182,944 in 1999 to \$191,341 in 2000.

## **FINANCING GOVERNMENT SERVICES - LONG TERM ISSUES**

- Real property tax revenue will provide 47% of the total General Fund revenues for FY 2001.
- FY 2001 marks the first year in which revenues from the State and federal government will make up the second largest source of General Fund revenues - following real property tax.
- While the City is fortunate in FY 2001 that State and federal aid to localities has increased slightly, it is important to note that these revenues are not under the control of the City Manager or City Council.
- As a result of this increasing dependence on State and federal aid, it is important over the long term that the City continue to explore ways to diversify its revenue base, and to make wise decisions regarding growth and development.
- Adhering to the City Council's debt related financial policies will be vitally important in the years ahead.
- The City will face continued expenditure challenges due to increasing capital costs and costs associated with residential refuse collection and recycling.

## **INVESTING IN YOUTH AND LIFELONG LEARNING**

The City makes a significant investment in its youth, and the FY 2001 Approved Budget includes new initiatives to continue to work toward the City's vision for youth well-being.

- Full funding for the School Board's FY 2001 Operating Budget, including funding for the new Samuel W. Tucker Elementary School.
- \$300,000 to establish an affordable, high quality model before and after school child care pilot program at the Samuel W. Tucker Elementary School. This pilot project will provide a high quality child care program that incorporates recreational, educational and culturally enriching components. The City is committed to ensuring sufficient funding so that no child will be turned away from the program because of the family's inability to afford modest sliding scale fees.
- \$100,000 to improve access to services for non-English speaking residents, plus an increase of \$50,000 for the Arlandria Center for Women and Children.
- \$55,600 to establish a "Power Up" after school program for middle school students at Francis Hammond Middle School, and to enrich the existing after school "Power Up" program at George Washington Middle School.

## **CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM**

- The FY 2001-FY 2006 Approved Capital Improvement Program (CIP) recommends a six-year, \$156.2 million program of public improvements, which represents an increase of approximately \$38 million, or 32%, compared to the approved FY 2000 - FY 2005 CIP.
- Funding for relocation or replacement of the City's Health Department is included at \$8 million, phased over 3 years.
- A total of \$18 million over six years is included in the FY 2001-FY2006 CIP to address the City's sewer infrastructure.
- A total of \$2.1 million is budgeted for the planned renovation of the Durant Center.
- A total of \$1.2 million is budgeted over six years to provide "seed" monies for the acquisition and preservation of open space.
- Nearly \$1 million (\$825,000) is included for the renovation of the Buddie Ford Nature Center to improve and modernize the facility.
- \$1.2 million was added for capital costs, including library materials, to reopen the Burke facility as a shared use between the Library and the Alexandria City Public Schools.

## **FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT**

- Alexandria is one of less than 25 independent cities with triple-A credit ratings from both of the major municipal credit rating agencies.
- The City continues to adhere to its adopted debt-related financial policies.
- The Approved Budget maintains a City reserve fund (undesignated fund balance) of 6.3 percent of General Fund revenues, which is above the target of 5.5 percent set by City Council in the financial policies.

## **SERVICES FOR SENIOR CITIZENS**

In addition to the over \$6.2 million in existing programs specifically for our elderly residents, the FY 2001 Approved Budget includes:

- \$222,200 to expand companion aide services to elderly and disabled residents. This funding will provide service for up to 50 additional individuals per year, bringing the total to approximately 200 individuals served annually.
- \$635,000 to fully fund the Elderly and Disabled Tax Relief program, an increase of \$50,000 as compared to the approved FY 2000 budget.
- \$34,000 for new recreational and leisure programming for seniors to be offered at the Ramsey Recreation Center when this newly constructed facility opens in the fall of 2000.

## **ALEXANDRIA CITY PUBLIC SCHOOLS**

- The FY 2001 Approved City Operating budget appropriation to the Schools is \$98,780,870, an increase of 6.9 percent, to fully fund the School Board's Adopted Operating Budget, and to fund compensation increases for Schools employees comparable to those approved for City employees.
- The total approved School Operating Budget, including all State and federal Aid, is \$131.8 million in FY 2001.
- The Approved FY 2001-FY 2006 CIP includes approximately \$57.6 million for the School's capital program, and represents an increase of 11 percent, over the current Schools' six-year plan.
- The Approved FY 2001 - FY 2006 CIP provides full funding for the first four years of the School Board's adopted capital program, plus \$13 million for the out years of the Schools' CIP. The City and the Schools will need to continue to work together to meet the capital funding challenges in the out years of the CIP.

## **ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT**

- Starting in FY 2001, the City will be implementing an accelerated computer depreciation schedule used to assess and tax the fair market value of computer equipment for business personal property tax. This accelerated computer depreciation schedule will result in \$1.5 million in business personal property tax relief in FY 2001.

## **ENHANCING OUR QUALITY OF LIFE**

As Alexandria continues to grow and attract new residents and businesses, it is essential that we maintain and enhance our environment, including our parks, recreational facilities and open space. The FY 2001 Approved Budget includes the following new initiatives with this goal in mind:

- \$368,000 is budgeted for the new Ramsay Recreation Center that will open in the fall of 2000. Programs and activities of interest to all residents will be offered in the new 18,000 square foot center;
- \$40,000 is included in the Parks, Recreation and Cultural Activities budget to enhance our waterfront maintenance efforts, particularly during the summer months;
- \$10,000 has been added to the annual park maintenance budget to provide to on-going replacement of park benches and other small park amenities;
- \$17,290 is included in the Department of Planning and Zoning to increase a part-time planning position to a full-time landscape architect.
- A total of \$1.2 million is budgeted in the CIP to provide "seed" monies for the acquisition and preservation of open space. The first priority will be the development of a master plan for open space.
- The monies for open space in the CIP are recommended as a City challenge grant matching fund, to help leverage private and grant funding for open space.
- A total of \$372,000 is included in the six-year CIP for the bicycle trail projects as detailed in the Bicycle Transportation and Multi-Use Trail Master Plan.
- The annual capital budget for tree planting has been doubled - to \$80,000 per year, and \$20,000 per year is budgeted for median landscaping.

## **FINAL FY 2001 ADD/DELETE LIST**

On April 27, 2000, City Council adopted the City Manager's Proposed Budget with the following amendments:

## **OPERATING BUDGET EXPENDITURES**

1. Approved funding for a cost of living adjustment for all City employees. Monies for a 2% COLA were included in the FY 2001 proposed budget.

**FINAL FY 2001 ADD/DELETE LIST, continued**

2. Approved increasing the cost of living adjustment for City and Schools employees by 0.5 percent, from 2 percent to 2.5 percent. Increase of \$1,100,000.
3. Approved merit in-step increases for all eligible City employees. Monies were included in the FY 2001 proposed budget; therefore there was no net fiscal impact.
4. Approved an increase in the employer share of health care benefits for active and retired City employees to partially offset the expected costs increases. Monies were included in the FY 2001 proposed budget; therefore, there was no net fiscal impact.
5. Approved an increase in the per diem payment for the Board of Equalization, from \$75 to \$100, to be comparable to other Northern Virginia jurisdictions. Monies were included in the FY 2001 proposed budget; therefore, there was no net fiscal impact.
6. Approved a transfer from Contingent Reserves of \$15,000 to the Court Service Unit budget to provide full funding for the existing youth services activities primarily funded by the Virginia Juvenile Community Crime Control Act (VJCCCA) grant.
7. Approved a transfer from Contingent Reserves of \$72,300 to the Department of Planning and Zoning budget to fund a full time Urban Planner/Urban Designer position to work on redevelopment issues.
8. Addition of funding to the Library's budget to fund partial year operating costs to reopen the Burke Branch Library and Community Learning Center as a shared use between the Alexandria Library Board and the Alexandria City Public Schools. Increase of \$200,000.
9. Increased funding to the Department of Human Services budget to fund a position relating to adolescent services, specifically teen pregnancy prevention. Increase of \$100,000.
10. Approved an increase in the budget for the Community Partnership Fund for Human Services competitive grant award pool for programs providing human service needs to Alexandrians who are school-age or older. Increase of \$50,000.
11. Approved increased funding for the Alexandria Commission for the Arts competitive grant program. Increase of \$15,000.
12. Approved an increase in the budget of the Department of Recreation for tree maintenance and watering. Increase of \$10,000.
13. Increased the FY 2001 revenue estimate for Permits, Fees and Licenses, Restaurant Meals, Personal Property, Motor Vehicle License, and Miscellaneous Tax Revenues to reflect revised projections based on receipts through March 31, 2000. And an increased E-911 tax rate (from \$0.25 to \$0.50 per line per month). The net impact of these actions increased General Fund revenues by \$1,264,700.



**FINAL FY 2001 ADD/DELETE LIST, continued**

14. Reduced the estimate of Sales Tax Revenue to reflect revised projections based on receipts through March 31, 2000. This action decreased General Fund revenues by \$515,000.

**FY 2001 - FY 2006 CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM**

City Council approved the six year capital improvement program as proposed by the City Manager with the following amendment:

15. Addition of \$1.2 million in FY 2001 for the Burke facility capital costs to reopen the facility as a shared use building between the Alexandria Library Board and the Alexandria City Public Schools.